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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/388,605	09/02/1999	TOUKO KASAHARA	1114-133	4217

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EXAMINER

DUONG, TAI V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/388,605

Applicant(s)

KASAHARA ET AL.

Examiner

TAI DUONG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 September 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 and 6. 6) ☐ Other: _____

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words in length. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the recited features “an interlayer insulating film disposed so as to cover part of the data/scan signal transmission lines and transistor” and “the liquid crystal layer is disposed so as to overlie at least part of the drain electrode” of claim 1; “an interlayer insulating film disposed so as to cover part of the data/scan signal transmission lines and transistor” and “the interlayer insulating film and the liquid crystal layer are disposed so as to overlie at least part of the gate electrode” of claim 6, “the interlayer insulating film is provided with an opening formed in a region thereof on at least part of the gate electrode” of claim 10, “an interlayer insulating film disposed so as to cover part of the data/scan signal transmission lines and transistor” and “the interlayer insulating film and liquid crystal layer disposed so as to overlie part of a diverted portion which is diverted from the auxiliary capacitance line “ of claim 11, “an interlayer insulating film disposed so as to cover part of the data/scan signal transmission lines and transistor” of claim 15, “the pixel electrode is disposed in a residual region other than a region on a to-be-corrected portion when correcting pixels within parts or components disposed between the interlayer insulating film and the one substrate” of claim 17 to must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-14 and 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1, 6 and 11, It is unclear how the liquid crystal layer can be disposed so as to overlie at least part of the drain electrode (claim 1), the gate electrode (claim 6), and the diverted portion of the auxiliary capacitance line (claim 11). As apparent from the instant drawings, the liquid crystal layer overlies entirely the active matrix substrate (surrounded by the seal). In claim 17, it is unclear to which region the residual region refers. How is a region defined as "residual"? Also, it is unclear why the pixel electrode is disposed in a residual region instead of in the region on a to-be-corrected portion which is located in the pixel region. As the name implies, this portion is used for correcting defects. The remaining claims are also rejected since they depend on the indefinite claims. Lastly, it is suggested to insert "gate" before "electrode" of claim 9 for avoiding confusion.

Claims 15 and 16 are allowed because none of the prior art of record discloses or suggests a LCD apparatus comprising "an interlayer insulating film disposed so as to cover part of the data/scan signal transmission lines and transistor, a pixel electrode

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being electrically connected to a drain electrode of the TFT via a contact hole provided in the interlayer insulating film wherein the pixel electrode is provided with an opening formed at a specified location nearest to the data signal transmission line at an outer periphery of the pixel electrode".

Claims 1-14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Claims 1, 6 and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record discloses or suggests a LCD apparatus comprising "an interlayer insulating film disposed so as to cover part of the data/scan signal transmission lines and transistor, a pixel electrode being electrically connected to a drain electrode of the TFT via a contact hole provided in the interlayer insulating film wherein the interlayer insulating film and liquid crystal layer are disposed so as to overlie at least part of the drain electrode (claim 1), or at least part of the gate electrode (claim 6), or part of a diverted portion of the auxiliary capacitance line (claim 11)".

Claim 17 has not been indicated as allowable over the prior art because the intended scope of the claim is not clear for the reasons mentioned in the above 112 rejection.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Tai Duong at telephone number 703 308-4873.

TVD
TVD/11/02


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER